

## Wheelchairs Fixed at Prison Headed to Ghana

Pendleton, Indiana (January 14, 2009) – The Wheels for the World (WFTW) operation at the Pendleton Correctional Facility recently refurbished 200 wheelchairs that will be shipped to Ghana in Western Africa for distribution.

Offenders at the facility work on chairs that are in disrepair and restore them to a like-new condition. The program at the Pendleton facility operates in conjunction with the Joni and Friends International Disability Center in Agoura Hills, California. The WFTW program operates in several correctional facilities around the country.



Wheelchairs are ready for shipment.

“This is a tremendous program,” stated Pendleton Superintendent Brett Mize. “This provides a win-win situation that allows offenders to provide a valuable community service while learning a marketable skill that can optimize the opportunity for a successful re-entry process.”

According to Wheels for the World Restoration Supervisor Cynthia Berry, the 200 wheelchairs from Pendleton will be distributed by WFTW outreach personnel in two cities in Ghana in March and April of 2009. Recipients of the chairs are selected by churches and other organizations that identify and generate a list of disabled individuals in the region who need assistance.

Officials with the Joni and Friends organization have been extremely appreciative and complimentary of the work being done at the Facility to support the Program. “We are so thankful for the outstanding quality of wheelchairs that the Pendleton Correctional Facility provides to give the gift of mobility to men, women, and children in Ghana, as well as other countries,” said Cynthia Berry.



An offender works on refurbishing a wheelchair.

“I commend the offenders and staff associated with this program at Pendleton,” stated Indiana Department of Correction Commissioner Edwin G. Buss. “They can take great pride in knowing that this outstanding program is providing assistance to people in need around the world.”

Since the program’s inception at Pendleton in January 2006, the facility has refurbished over 900 wheelchairs for the Joni and Friends Wheelchair Outreach Ministry.

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